

Virtual Learning Academy FAQ and Registration Links

What is the Virtual Learning Academy?

The Virtual Learning Academy is a comprehensive online K-12 school experience available through your local district coordinated by the InterMountain Education Service District. Students will remain enrolled in their local district, while having the opportunity to learn online.

K-6 students are enrolled in full-time online learning, while 7-12 students have the opportunity to register for online classes and district based classes. All classes are taught by local licensed teachers. Students will have access to learning labs for extra support and enrichment opportunities.

What will K-6 learning look like?

Students in kindergarten through 6th grade will be enrolled full-time in online learning. Students will be taught by licensed elementary teachers with expertise in providing engaging and dynamic online learning. Students will remain with the same teacher for the entire school year, similar to a traditional learning environment. Core subjects will be taught, including math, reading, writing, science, social studies, art, and PE. K-6 learning will incorporate virtual class meetings, virtual whole group and small group instruction, individual instruction, independent work, project-based learning, and other dynamic learning opportunities. Teachers will coordinate with families to help facilitate learning at home in an online setting and design a learning schedule that works best for each family.

What will 7-12 learning look like?

7th through 12th grade students will have the flexibility to combine online and district based classes. Students will have the opportunity to register in two different learning platforms. Students will be able to select between, or a combination of, Acellus or Google Classroom based courses. The Acellus program provides predetermined, video-based lessons and quizzes monitored by local licensed teachers. Google Classroom learning may incorporate instructional videos, assigned texts, projects, and ability to work with other students virtually. Google Classroom courses will be designed and taught by local licensed teachers. Google Classroom will offer a more personalized and rigorous learning opportunity than Acellus.

What support will my student have?

Students will have support from their local school district for extra academic support and enrichment opportunities. Students will have access to weekly learning labs and coordinated learning with the STEM Hub for science experiences.

Students and families will have access to school counselors for help with any work or questions about credits, transcripts and graduation.

All special plans, including special education, talented and gifted, English Language Development, and 504, will be supported by the local district and followed by teachers within the online program.

How does attendance get tracked?

Student engagement (progress or work completion) in online learning is required to count as attendance. These attendance communications can happen through Google Classroom, through school-assigned Gmail accounts, by phone, or in-person/virtual class time.

How does grading work?

In all grade levels (K-12), standard grade scales will resume for the 2020/21 school year. Teachers will establish due dates for all graded coursework and assessments in determining a student's grade and proficiency on grade-level standards. At the middle school and high school level, failure to complete assigned coursework would result in failing the class, loss of credit, and not maintaining on-track status or athletic eligibility.

When can my student access the online learning/classroom?

One of the benefits of online learning is that students can access their classes when they are ready to learn or families have scheduled time to support their learning. Online classes can be accessed 24/7 and provide a flexible solution to learning. Students and parents can plan to focus on one or more classes per day. However, students and parents should be aware that online learning does take focused time (about 30 minutes per class per day on average), and they should have well-established routines to be successful. Online learning is hard and requires significant time, attention, and commitment. - it is not for everyone. While flexible, all students are required to complete assigned coursework within each semester to avoid negative impacts to grades and credit particularly at the middle school and high school level.

What are the expectations for my student in online learning?

***Attend:** Students must check-in with their teacher(s) twice per week to maintain eligibility in the program and not be truant.*

***Daily Class Time:** Plan on at least 30 minutes a day per class or topic. Online is more flexible but not easier.*

***Meet Deadlines:** Our goal is to help students move towards grade-level proficiency and graduation. All work has to be completed by the end of each semester to earn grades, credits, maintain eligibility, and maintain on-track status.*

Will my student be able to participate in afterschool/extracurricular activities?

Yes! All online students are fully eligible to participate in any of the athletic or extra-curricular activities at our schools.

What technology support will we receive?

Each student is loaned a Chromebook and charging cable. The IMESD tech support crew will be available via email and phone for any issues that arise with your Chromebook.

Parents will be required to complete the Technology Use Agreement and financial liability forms to access technology. Replacement Chromebooks will not be provided until families resolve fees from lost, stolen, or damaged technology.

How do I enroll my child?

Contact the school district to be enrolled and register for courses.